

AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. Please replace the paragraph located on page 16, lines 1-5 with the following replacement paragraph. Added text is identified by underlining:

--**Figure 3:** shows a 48 bp sequence comprising 21 bp of KIT exon 17 and 27 bp of KIT intron 17 where the position of the intron/exon border is marked with a vertical line, the splice site mutation (nt1^{G→A}) indicated with a vertical arrow and identical bases in allele *I^P* and *i* are marked with a dot. The KIT1 gene is included in the sequence listing as SEQ ID NO:10, while the KIT2 gene of allele *I* is included in the sequence listing as SEQ ID NO:11;--